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QUIET BEFORE STORM.

All Depends on the Action of the Advisory Board.

GENERAL STRIKE IS ANTICIPATED.

Shaffer Says the Issue Has Been Drawn and That He Will Die Fighting Rather Than Lay Down — Labor News.

Pittsburg, April 17.—Quiet prevails about the W. Dewees Wood plant of the American Sheet Steel company at McKeesport. There was an absence of idle men loitering in the streets, and it was evident the strikers had retired to their houses to await the decision of the national advisory board as to the advisability of calling out employees of other mills controlled by the American Sheet Steel company to aid them in their fight.

It was reported that the company would make an attempt to bring outside men to McKeesport and that a score or more men were on barges across the river awaiting an opportunity to be smuggled into the works. Patrols were thrown out and every avenue of approach guarded, but the report was evidently without foundation, as the expected move did not develop. The hammer house was the only department in operation, and unless the sheet mills resume work soon the men in this department will have no material to work on after Friday.

Manager Cooper posted an order notifying all the men in the run-out force, bar mill and sheet mill to report for work Thursday at 7 a. m. or consider themselves discharged. They were requested, in the latter case, to call at the office and get their money. A high board fence has been built around No. 2 mill, and it is reported that an attempt will soon be made to start it. The plant has 16 mills.

Members of the national advisory board and vice presidents of the Amalgamated association, who had been called together by President Shaffer to consider measures in connection with the strike, were slow in assembling. Previous to the meeting Mr. Shaffer said he would ask for power to call out at his discretion the employees of the American Sheet Steel company, and then if he deems it necessary, as a last resort, to extend the strike to all the plants of the United States steel corporation. He did not hesitate to declare his intention of carrying out his prerogative of calling out employees of the big combine, if such a resolution should be adopted by the board. He said: "I could not yield the point demanded of me at McKeesport, and I would rather die fighting than lie down. The issue has been drawn; there can be no backing down now. We have received telegrams from our members in different sections of the country indorsing the stand we have taken, and they say they will stand by us if it comes to a general strike."

A. F. L. Asked to Assist. President Shaffer also wired President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor explaining the situation at length, and asking for any assistance the federation could give if the conflict came. It is considered by labor authorities that 50,000 men is a fair estimate of the membership of the Amalgamated association. The association is, according to a statement by Secretary John Williams, in a more prosperous condition financially than ever in its history. Of the total membership 15,000 are employed by the Republic Iron and Steel company, which is not a member of the Morgan combine, and by the independent mill plants here and elsewhere. Of the American Sheet Steel company's plants, 35 per cent of the total capacity is in organized mills. The company operates 18 large plants and a number of small plants, 6 of the 30 plants of the combine being shut down and partially dismantled. Twelve of the plants are union mills. The most important of the nonunion plants are the Vandergrift (Pa.) works, the Apollo (Pa.) works, and the mills at Wellsville, O., and Leechburg, Pa.

The meeting of the national advisory board and vice presidents did not begin until nearly 11 o'clock. There was a full attendance of the national officers and trustees who make up the board, and among the vice presidents present were David Reese of Pittsburg, first district; Walter Larkins of Martin's Ferry, O., second district; Charles H. Davis of Newport, Ky., third district, and Clem Jarvis of Anderson, Ind., fifth district. No one was admitted to the meeting room but the members of the board and the vice presidents. Previous to the meeting a canvass of the members developed a strong individual disposition to grant President Shaffer power to call out employees of the other mills, although no one would venture to predict what

the decision of the board would be.

General Manager Smith and Secretary John Jarrett of the American Sheet Steel company were invited to be present, but Mr. Smith did not attend. Secretary Jarrett was on hand and consumed some time in placing before the members of the Amalgamated association the position his company had taken in the fight now on. President Shaffer stated that he would, if possible, go to McKeesport after the meeting to advise the men now on strike and counsel them to be mild in their acts.

The combine, it is said, will be asked to vacate the position it has taken, or a strike will be declared. Around Amalgamated headquarters a general air of expectancy prevailed. Men of all crafts dropped in and eagerly inquired as to what were the prospects for a strike. They seemed to realize that once the struggle is precipitated, its effects must of necessity be far-reaching, concerning them all.

Want Campaign Promises Fulfilled.

Syracuse, April 17.—Nearly 500 employees of the Onondaga pottery are out on a strike in sympathy with the girls who went out Saturday. The men, however, say that before the last presidential election pottery employees submitted to a reduction of wages on the promise of employers that should McKinley be elected the wages would be restored. This has not been done here and the men demand the raise. There are 30 employees still at work. Committees representing the strikers are in session with the general manager of the company.

Strike at Shamokin.

Shamokin, Pa., April 17.—At the Natalie colliery 1,000 men and boys struck because the Shamokin Coal company would not accede to their demands. The colliery is completely tied up. The men ask that James Bateman, inside foreman, and Conductor John Yeager of the miners' train be discharged, and that trainmen running on the company's road between Natalie and Summit be granted 10 per cent increase over present wages.

Switchmen's Strike Sticks.

Scranton, Pa., April 17.—The strike of the switchmen on the Scranton division of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western continues, with no signs of break or settlement. It has already had the effect of shutting down all the mines of the Lackawanna Coal company and it is impossible to get any cars from the mines, thus forcing idleness on over 10,000 mine employees.

Brickmasons Strike.

Atlanta, April 17.—A total of 200 brickmasons, who have been getting 30 cents an hour for a 9-hour day, have struck for 40 cents and an 8-hour day.

GERMAN CLAIMS.

Indignation Felt Over Mr. Rockhill's Statement of Indemnities.

London, April 17.—A Berlin correspondent represents the German government as being in a state of considerable indignation at the statement in the American press of Mr. Rockhill's figures of indemnity which may be demanded from China.

The statement is said to be exceedingly incorrect and calculated to give an entirely false impression. The excess of German over the English claims is easily understood. The Germans sent a much larger force from Europe, while the British sent one from India, comparatively near at hand. In these circumstances it is regarded here as a matter of regret that the misleading account published in America should be commented on in the English press in a spirit calculated to give offense to Germany. Great indignation is expressed at the suggestion that the indemnity claimed by Germany includes a heavy pecuniary mulct for the murder of Baron von Ketteler. The baselessness of the supposition is shown by the fact that the German claim is only £12,000,000 as against £14,000,000 stated by Mr. Rockhill, and therefore considerably less than the amount already voted by the reichstag for the campaign.

There is no attempt in authoritative quarters to disguise the fact that much can be said in favor of the United States' suggestion in regard to the settlement of the indemnities, but the German government has refrained from taking up a definite attitude thereon until it sees how it is received by the other powers.

Dayton, O., April 17.—Henry W. Hawthorne, one of the invalid soldiers in the soldiers' home here, has just received notice that he has been made the beneficiary to the amount of from \$200,000 to \$500,000 left him by a woman out of gratitude for having saved her life many years ago. The woman is Mrs. Josephine Fairfax, who recently died in the south of France. Hawthorne went to England on a visit. While at Kent, bathing in the sea, he saw a woman and her son in a boat, which capsized. Hawthorne, being an expert swimmer, saved the woman, but the son was drowned.

LOOMIS HAS LANDED.

Will Report at Washington Latter Part of the Week.

DENIES THE SAN JUAN INTERVIEWS.

Expects to Return to Venezuela But Will Ask For Leave to Visit Europe to Recuparate His Health. The Venezuelan Situation.

New York, April 17.—Frank B. Loomis, United States minister to Venezuela, who arrived on the Caracas from Porto Rico, disembarked and drove at once to the Hotel Victoria, where he will be quartered until the end of the week, when he will go to Washington to report to the state department and President McKinley. He gives a positive disclaimer to the authorship of the San Juan interviews, in which he was made to say some severe things about President Castro, and he avers that an injustice has been done him in this respect.

Mr. Loomis said: "I did not say any of the unpleasant things that have been attributed to me about President Castro during my stay at San Juan or anywhere else. The fact is, I like Mr. Castro very much. I was interviewed at San Juan, but it was more a pleasant chat than anything else. There were other passengers aboard and present who said some unkind things, but I certainly did not. I can not understand how the criticisms were put in my mouth unless the views of the passengers alluded to were made mine. I am quoted as saying that President Castro drew but \$12,000 a year salary, yet had made \$2,000,000 in two years. Now I do not even know positively that the president gets the salary named, and I know nothing of any money he has made. I must also deny that he plotted to secure my recall or removal. I can not discuss the recent diplomatic incident with Venezuela. There are several points in connection with that I will report on to the department, and naturally they are quite confidential. I may say, however, that the preliminary steps toward a legal settlement of the asphalt cases have been taken in the Venezuelan courts. That is precisely where our government wished the disputes to go. We insisted that the dispute be submitted for adjudication without prejudice and carried our point. I do not say our government does not reserve the right to intervene if justice is not done, but we want the matter passed upon by the courts. There was some feeling at the height of the incident, but it has subsided, and our relations at present are quite satisfactory. I can not say how long it will take to reach a decision in the asphalt cases; I presume the law has its delays in Venezuela as elsewhere. President Castro seems to have the country quite under control.

"A constitutional convention—the eleventh they have had, I believe—has just adjourned, and there is to be an election in the autumn. It is quite certain that Castro will be re-elected president and inaugurated next spring. The constitutional convention has changed the tenure of the president from four to six years. Andrade, I am told, is at Curacao, and I feel that the report is true, for there is generally a colony of Venezuelans there thinking of home and anxious to improve the political condition. I am told Andrade plans an expedition to Venezuela, but I do not anticipate any trouble for some months.

"Venezuelans who have discussed Andrade with me say that while he is well informed, rather able and quite broadminded, he is lacking in strength and too kind-hearted to make a successful ruler. They say that another leader, a younger man, will be brought forward to oppose President Castro. However, of all these matters I have no personal knowledge, and am merely telling you what the Venezuelans say on these matters.

"The Barcelona incident in which our consular agent was twice arrested by local officials in an attempt to extort money from him, has been practically closed and in a manner quite satisfactory to us. Our government directed me to demand an apology and the fullest reparation. Just before leaving I was given assurance that the fullest amends will be made. I believe the assurances will be carried out.

"I do not expect to return to Venezuela for at least five months. Four years in the tropics have left me in need of change and rest, and my physician says Carlsbad, and I am going to try to get leave for a trip to that health resort."

Fell Under the Wheels.

Sandusky, O., April 17.—James Haslet, 17, while stealing a ride on a freight train was tripped off by low telephone wires, fell under the wheels and his body was cut in two.

HI SES AND HOWLS.

Stormy Demonstration at Induction of Bishop of London.

London, April 17.—The scene in Bow church during the consecration of the Rt. Rev. A. F. W. Ingram as bishop of London resembled a political meeting rather than a religious service. John Kensit, the anti-ritualist, entered an expected protest against the appointment and he spoke some time in a loud voice. His remarks caused an extraordinary uproar, and he was greeted with cheers, hisses, and shouts of "Order!" "Shame!" "No popery!" and many other interruptions.

Mr. Kensit, in the course of his remarks, accused Dr. Ingram of being unfaithful to all his promises when he was consecrated bishop of Stepney, adding that he had helped lawbreakers, had encouraged clergymen who, in defiance of the rubrics, elevated the host, offered masses, and practiced the confession, etc. He concluded with saying that he was prepared to appear in the courts and prove that Dr. Ingram was an unfit person to hold the position of a bishop of the Protestant church owing to his encouragement of Romish practices.

The friends and opponents of Mr. Kensit became so uproarious that the vicar general tried to clear the church. Dr. Ingram appealed to his friends to listen quietly. Eventually the vicar general overruled the objections, and the election of Dr. Ingram was confirmed. Disorderly scenes and hustling occurred outside the church, and finally Mr. Kensit was escorted home by a score of policemen and followed by a howling mob.

RAILWAY FOR A RIVAL.

British Building Road in Mexico to Compete With Canal.

London, April 17.—The British rival to the Isthmian canal is a railway which is being built across Mexico's narrowest point. This will be mainly an extension of the Tehuantepec line, built by the Mexican government to connect the Gulf of Mexico with the Pacific, which has no terminal facilities. S. Pearson & Company of London are reconstructing the railway into an interoceanic freight thoroughfare under an agreement made two years ago, the Mexican government leasing the road for fifty years.

The line will be ready within four years; 2,000 men are working, personally supervised by Sir Weetman Pearson. Harbors are being constructed at both ends, affording anchorage to the largest vessels. Mr. Pearson says: "We hope for 2,000,000 tons yearly on the railway. If the Nicaraguan canal carries that it will have to charge 30 shillings a ton to make 4 per cent, against our charge of 10 shillings. Again there will be a saving of time. We shall handle a ship's cargo in one day, against three spent in the canal. We have the best of the distance and a start of fully five years. Though the road is 150 miles long, it has 900 bridges of iron and stone, which, with the rails, are coming from America."

Another Big Steel Plant.

Philadelphia, April 17.—It is stated on what appears to be good authority that an immense steel plant will be built at Billingsport, N. J., on the Delaware river. Henry C. Frick and his friends are said to be interested in the enterprise. According to the story told here 600 acres of land have been secured, with ample water front, thus insuring the construction of wharves, so that supplies from the mines of Pennsylvania and elsewhere could be laid down directly at the works by water at the least cost. The site selected fronts on the Delaware river between Red Bank and Lincoln park, about ten miles below Philadelphia. It is level ground, and the area of land purchased would warrant laying out villages for working people in addition to the big steel plant.

Turf Kings Matched.

Lexington, Ky., April 17.—The match race between Cresceus and Charley Herr, scheduled for the October meeting of the Kentucky Trotting Horse Breeders' association, is an assured fact. Secretary Wilson received a letter from George H. Ketcham of Toledo, owner of Cresceus, saying the terms were satisfactory. His check for \$500, which amount of the side bet of \$1,000 must be deposited at once, is expected in a few days. The horses will contest for a purse of \$7,000, of which \$2,000 goes to the loser. David Cahill engaged to enter Charley Herr.

Ohio Incorporations.

Columbus, O., April 17.—Defiance, Ottawa, Kenton and Columbus electric railway, \$50,000; Cleveland, Painesville and Ashtabula railroad, increase from \$1,000 to \$1,000,000; Chillicothe Hot Water Heating company, Chillicothe, \$40,000; Garrett Cromwell Engineering company, Cleveland, \$100,000; Akron Fireproof Construction company, Akron, \$40,000; Collinwood Lumber company, Cleveland, \$10,000; Union Printing company, Akron, \$10,000.

CAN'T CAPTURE CEBUS

They Hide In Impregnable Retreats In the Mountains.

CEBU THE LEAST PACIFIED PROVINCE.

Judge Taft Tells Natives That Unless The Mountaineers Are Conquered Civil Government Will Not Supersede Military Control.

Cebu, Island of Cebu, P. I., April 17.—A force of 1,000 troops in the island of Cebu is unable to accomplish the surrender or capture of the 200 Filipino riflemen who are still out. Colonel McClernand says the terms the Filipinos offered are impossible.

Of the 50 towns a dozen of the larger have been organized under military orders. The others are believed to have native governors. Judge Taft, addressing the convention, deplored the fact that Cebu was the least pacified province, and called on the delegates to decide whether 200 men would be permitted to restrain peace, or whether the majority would organize and notify the mountain natives to cease causing trouble. If the people were not ready to do this the committee would not supersede the military by civil control. The exhortation was not demonstratively received. Visayans from 24 towns represented urged the organization of a provincial government and the wind-up of the war, and commended Colonel McClernand as commanding wisely and without bloodshed.

The island will probably be organized as one province. The population numbers 650,000.

Negotiations With Denmark.

Copenhagen, April 17.—The government is earnestly considering the recent somewhat modified proposal with regard to the sale to the United States of the Danish West Indies which is considered likely to lead to a satisfactory termination of the negotiations. Official circles are informed that the two governments are nearer an agreement than they have been at any previous time. The Danish government ridicules the reiterated reports published in English papers that a peremptory communication regarding the sale of the islands has been received from the United States. Officials are much impressed with the cordiality and friendliness the United States has shown throughout the negotiations.

Jockeying the Sugar Market.

London, April 17.—Excitement in the sugar market increases as Sir Michael Hicks-Beach's budget statement comes nearer. The Clyde crushed sugar exchange opened very excitedly and prices immediately jumped sixpence per hundredweight. The demand was so strong that refiners asked for and secured an additional threepence. Everything offered was sold before the close. All the refineries have been working day and night for the past week.

Klondike Glacier.

Seattle, Wash., April 17.—Dawson arrivals on the steamship Humboldt say the Klondike is in the throes of a glacial phenomenon. Two months ago a glacier made its appearance on the hillside back of Dawson. The ice of the glacier is from 12 to 15 feet thick in places, and, besides rendering Dawson uninhabitable, it threatens to render the trail leading to the cemetery impassable during the summer.

Don't Want Money From Tories.

Dublin, April 17.—At a meeting of the national directory of the United Irish league, at which J. E. Redmond presided, it was resolved not to accept or acknowledge subscriptions to league funds from any persons identified with the addresses presented to Queen Victoria during her visit to Ireland last year, as their action was in direct opposition to the principles of the league.

Invasions of Chile.

Valparaiso, Chile, April 17.—The government is waiting information from the Chilean minister in Buenos Ayres before a protest is made against repeated invasions of Chilean territory by Citizens of Argentina. There have been invasions in Seno de la Ultima and Esperanza, near Punta Arenas.

Wessels Still Lives.

Craddock, Cape Colony, April 17.—Advices from Helibron say Andries Wessels is alive. Wessels accompanied Morgandael on his visit to the Boers in the capacity of a peace envoy and was reported to have been shot by order of General Dewet.

Venezuelan Courts Repudiated.

Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 17.—Germany, the United States, Great Britain and Spain have refused the Venezuelan courts as fit tribunals to adjudicate claims involving the rights of foreigners.